

RECKLESS RALPH'S

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

Vol. 21 No. 7

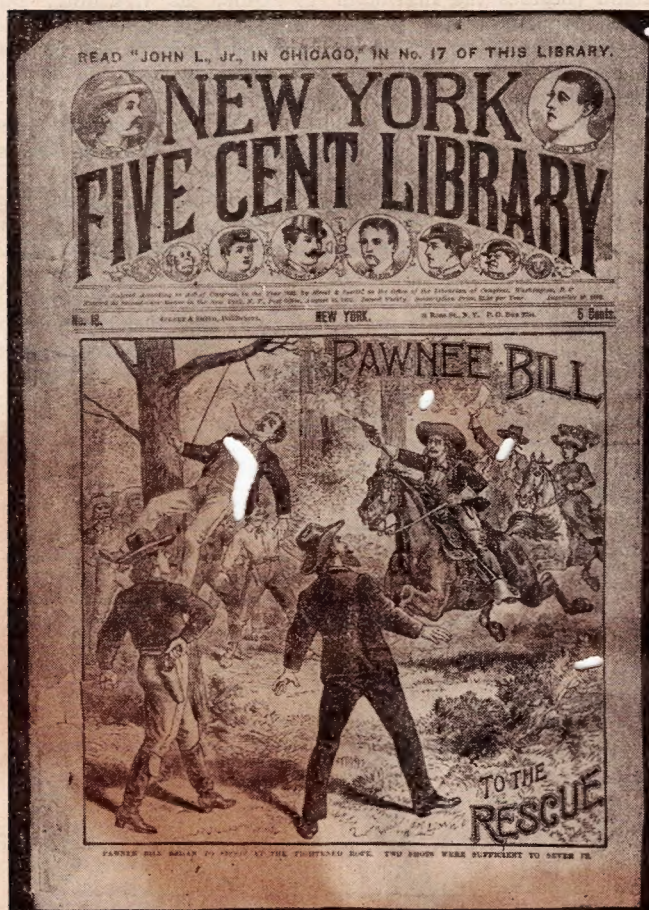
July 1953

Whole Number 250

BUCKSKIN MEN OF FOREST AND PLAIN

By J. Edward Leithead

Part IV



Photography courtesy Charles Duprez. From the LeBlanc Collection.

BUCKSKIN MEN OF FOREST AND PLAIN

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Part IV

Street & Smith, in whose New York Weekly the very first Buffalo Bill story appeared, also published the longest and best series of his adventures in their colored cover Buffalo Bill Stories, a weekly which ran to 591 issues and included not only the reprints from Beadle & Adams and their own black-and-white libraries, but a still greater number of original tales of the king of scouts and his pards of the plains. The authors of these were W. Bert Foster, Col. Prentiss Ingraham (besides the Ingraham reprints used, he penned new stories for Street & Smith), John H. Whitson, Laurana Sheldon, Eugene T. Sawyer, St. George Rathborne and others. A reprint series, New Buffalo Bill Weekly, ran to 364 issues.

Here, I believe, is St. George Rathborne writing for the Buffalo Bill Stories in #150, Buffalo Bill's Pawnee Pard, or, The Comanche Captive—Cody, Texas Jack and a Pawnee, Red Plume, have been engaged in rescuing a girl, Bertha Hallam, from Comanches on the warpath:

"They (Cody and the Indian) were about halfway between the cabin and the timber that bordered the creek. They wheeled their horses leisurely to approach the cabin. But Buffalo Bill turned to take a parting squint at the timber belt.

"As he did so a long line of smoke jets spurted from along the front of the timber, and the air around the heads of red scout and white seemed to swarm with hissing, leaden messengers.

"A low cry escaped the lips of Red Plume. At the same time his horse dropped as if his legs had been cut from under him. The Pawnee landed on his feet. A streak of red splotched his cheek, and oozed drops that fell onto his tunic.

"Quick as lightning, Buffalo Bill brought his horse alongside of his red pard, caught him by the arm, and half dragged him to the rear of his own saddle.

"Now we race for cover!" muttered Cody, digging the spurs into his horse.

"Another rattling volley was poured from the cover of the timber, while the enemy still refrained from showing even the smallest patch of a mark for a return shot. Buffalo Bill did not stop then to make blind shots which would be almost sure to lodge harmlessly in the trunks of trees.

"The distance to the cabin was not great, but for a hundred yards or so it was really a race with bullets. Cody's horse was in such prime condition that it did not at first seem to feel the double burden, although

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the Pawnee was considerably heavier than Buffalo Bill. The pace was nearly, if not quite, as rapid as it would have been had the burden been the usual one.

"The scout did not spare the horse for the distance, in which its best was needed. It was a case of life or death and there was more than a chance that his own animal would be struck, as had been the one ridden by Red Plume . . . The hidden enemy continued firing as fast as they could manipulate their weapons. And it was evident that they possessed rifles of the pattern which was in most general use at the time.

"Buffalo Bill lay close upon the neck of his horse, and Red Plume clung in a half-reclining posture, flat upon his stomach, across the animal's rump. The white scout had not been under a hotter fire for many a day, and when the whine of the flying bullets over his head finally ceased, it seemed to him almost a miracle that he had not been touched.

"At last he straightened up and gave a backward glance. The firing had ceased as suddenly as it had begun. Yet not one of the foes showed himself.

"That is a queer break for Comanches to make, don't you think so, Red Plume?" exclaimed Buffalo Bill, as he wiped the perspiration from his cheeks . . .

"In another moment they pulled up in front of the cabin. The door of the latter was open wide and Texas Jack (injured earlier in the fight) had crawled to the threshold, while Bertha Hallam was outside, showing great excitement and concern as Buffalo Bill and his red pard rode up.

"You—you were not struck, Mr. Cody?" she exclaimed.

"No."

"But Red Plume—"

"Had his horse shot from under him, and received a scratch. Happened to be his turn. Don't pity him—you'll only make him ugly if you do. We're sorry about his horse, though—we're likely to need it."

" . . . Buffalo Bill and Red Plume

dismounted and staked out the horse. Then the former went in to tell Texas Jack how matters stood. Jack had crawled back to his pallet, and he had his teeth clinched with the pain which his sudden exertion had brought on.

"We've got to get away from here before the night shuts down, Bill," was his verdict.

"You can't ride, Jack."

"Then get along and leave me."

"Do you reckon I'll do that?"

Texas Jack pleads in vain for him to clear out with the girl. Buffalo Bill tells him:

"You will stay here, and we'll put up the best fight we can. I don't reckon the girl counts the danger from the Comanches as much, anyway. Why, I can't figure out."

"Oh, you're the settest galoot, Bill, when you start out!" growled Jack."

Tousey's Wide Awake Library had a few Buffalo Bill items: #463, Buffalo Bill's Chum, by Captain Ralph Fenton, #735, In the Wild West, or, On the Plains With Buffalo Bill, by Robert Maynard, #917, Buffalo Bill's Boy Broncho Breaker, or, The Youngest Hero on the Plains, by Paul Braddon, #1003, Little Quick Shot, or, Buffalo Bill's Wild West in Europe, by Paul Braddon, #1305, reprint of #463. Maybe all of these were serials in Happy Days, as #463, with slightly altered title, Buffalo Bill's Boy Chum, or, In the Wild West With the King of Scouts. A Thrilling Story of Gen. Crook's Great Black Hills Campaign, by Frank Forrest, was running serially in Happy Days #82, dated May 9, 1896, a copy of which I have at hand.

Some were afterward reprinted in Pluck and Luck: #39, Out With Buffalo Bill, or, Six New York Boys in the Wild West, #163, On the Plains With Buffalo Bill, or, Two Years in the Wild West (reprint of Wide Awake #735), #632, Buffalo Bill's Boy Chum, or, In the Wild West With the King of Scouts (reprint of Wide Awake #463), #654, reprint of Pluck and Luck #39, #725, reprint of Pluck and Luck #163.

In Wide Awake Library were a couple of tales of fictitious boy heroes named for Cody—#1111, Buffalo Bill, Jr., and His Band o' Dead-shots, by Allyn Draper, reprinted in #1324, and #1154, Little Buffalo Bill, or, The Boy Scout of the Rio Del Norte, by Lieut. E. H. Kellogg. Little Buffalo Bill was reprinted in Pluck and Luck #604.

Old dime novel readers remember many an exciting Wild West yarn in which Buffalo Bill, Wild Bill and Texas Jack were pards, an unconquerable fighting trio; but there were also a few novels featuring the latter two as heroes on their own account.

Wild Bill, as James Butler Hickok was called, was famous in his own right. There exist several photos to prove he was a handsome as well as an extraordinary fighting man; one that I know of in full buckskin suit, with long mustache and long, light hair falling to his shoulders, two ivory-handled pistols and a long knife stuck in his belt; another of him in wide sombrero and broadcloth, with white collar and string tie; and still another, seated, in "town clothes" and wearing a fur hat, probably beaver-skin. Yes, handsome and deadly with those six-shooters—it is said that he could have cut over eighty notches had he cared to keep such a record of his gunwork.

Hickok was born at Troy Grove, Illinois, and during the War between the States, the Johnny Rebs had good cause to know him as a sharpshooter, scout and reckless horseman on the Union side. His famous fight with the McCandlas gang at Rock Creek, a station of the Overland Stage Company, was but one of many thrilling encounters in a life that was all too short. As a gunfighter he never really met his match. He walked in danger, brought law and order to Hays City and Abilene as city marshal, was much admired by General Custer, for whom he scouted. They had need of Wild Bill's rapid-fire gun at the Little Big Horn, if he'd only been along. When he wasn't town-taming, Hickok was fighting the Sioux and Chey-

ennes. He was some years older than Cody, knew the latter when Bill was just a boy. And from there on they were firm friends.

According to Col. Prentiss Ingraham's biography of him in Beadle's Boy's Library #3, Adventures of Wild Bill, the Pistol Prince, Hickok made the acquaintance of Madam Agnes Lake, whom he later married, at Hays City, Kansas. I quote from the biography:

"It was while Wild Bill was Marshall of Hays City, that a circus came there to give an exhibition, and of course it was an exciting event for the town.

"The circus was owned and managed by Madam Agnes Lake, the first Mazeppa rider I believe in the United States, and whose husband, the former proprietor, had been killed in Missouri.

"Madam Lake, though the first woman at the head of a large show, managed it with the greatest ability, and thus saved herself and her daughter from financial ruin after the death of her husband.

"As is often the case, when a circus visits small southern and western towns, some of the 'characters' of the place decided to 'clean it out', and assembled under the canvas for that purpose, anxious to start a row.

"Madam Lake had heard that a bad lot were coming, and advised her troupe to keep quiet and orderly; but this would do no good where there were idle desperadoes bent on a fight, and they began to insult the circus men in various ways, and at last, when one of them resented it, at once pitched into him.

"Others came to the rescue of their comrade, and a hot fight began.

"But suddenly into the midst of the combatants sprung a tall form, his fists fell right and left like sledge-hammers, and sent men to earth at every blow, and having gotten the desperadoes separated, he drew his revolvers and said quietly:

"Now, pards, git!"

"They knew that the one who gave the advice was Wild Bill, and they

took it and 'got'. Bill then turned to the circus men and said:

"Go on with the fun, boys, for we won't be disturbed again."

"Madam Lake having seen Bill dash single-handed into the fight, and single-handed end it, and drive the mob before him, asked to have him presented to her that she might thank him, and he was taken up and introduced by a friend.

"The madam received him most kindly, presented him to the members of her company, and from that meeting Wild Bill lost his heart to the fair widow, and years after, while he was performing with Buffalo Bill and Texas Jack upon the stage, he again met Madam Lake, and they were married in Cheyenne, for the lover's persistent wooing at last won a wife."

(To be continued)

EDITORIAL COLUMN

I am thinking of issuing a special number of the Round-up to be issued late this fall or early next winter; provided enough interest is shown, and enough advertising to defray expenses can be raised. How many would take a full page ad? Let me hear from you. This special issue would contain an article by Mr. Leithead entitled "The Outlaws Rode Hard in Dime Novel Days" which is equally as good as his present article currently being serialized in the Round-up.

The next issue will contain an article about Jack Harkaway by the late Patrick Mulhall and a dandy article by Frisco Bert Couch.

A member has suggested a question and answer column, the questions to be from those seeking information about novels, collecting, etc. Sounds like a good idea so I will kick it off by asking a question. The early numbers of the Wide Awake Library were originally published by Munro as the New York Boys Library. What was the last number so published and what was the date?

Anyone desiring information should address their questions to Edward T.

LeBlanc, 36 Taylor Street, Fall River, Mass. They will be printed in the Round-up as soon as possible and the answers (we hope that all will be answered) will appear in a subsequent issue.

Mike Serdy of Homestead, Pa., is now in a Pittsburgh Hospital for observation. Hope it is nothing serious.

NEWSY NEWS

by Ralph F. Cummings

Sam Tanenbaum of Hartford, Conn. had a fine display of novels at the Public Library for 3 weeks. Had a big 10 foot case with them in.

Eli Messier of Woonsocket, R. I., had a write up in the Pontiac, Mich., Daily Press, the San Jose, Calif. Mercury, the Mesa, Arizona, Daily and Cottonwood Folks, a Kansas paper.

John Hildebrand located the Merriwell Club in New York. Says they meet every 3 months. Next meeting in Sept. Mr. Graham is the president of it, had quite a talk with him.

Ernest Beique and his brother Buck and ye editor of the column, Cummings, paid Eli Messier a flying visit June 8th, before he went to work. Had quite a visit.

John Hildebrand has lots of old timers for sale, also Ralph Smith, John E. Elberg, George Flaum, Roy Morris, Bob Smeltzer, Charles Bragin, Ed LeBlanc and myself.

Geo. French address for the summer is Kezar Falls, Maine, and his winter address, a new one, is 7 Leo Terrace, Bloomfield, N. J.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bragin lost their daughter in marriage to Mr. Harmon Cogert, June 7th. We all wish them the very best all around.

May 15th Kenneth Baggert of Gardiner, Maine, came down and left on the 16th. While Ken was here he saw more old novels and story papers than he ever saw in his life. Kenneth is a Merriwell fan, and loves the circus too. He wrote up a fine story of 55000 words on the complete set of the Circus Tom Weekly, but has had no luck as yet in getting it into book form. We all wish him luck in getting a publisher.

J. Edward Leithead wants all the information he can get on "Graham E. Forbes," supposed to be one of the creators of Nick Carter. There was an advertisement in the Oct. 1949 Roundup about Mr. Forbes, so Ed. wants all the information there is. Ed wants the following Play Book Series—"The Sheriff of Angel Gulch," etc.

Guess by this time Fred Lee will be all settled in his new home.

Arthur E. (Bill) Jennings, 97, in London, Ont., died Feb. 8, 1947. He was 14 when he served under Col. W. S. (Buffalo Bill) Cody in the Civil War and was 65 when he saw active service in France in World War I in the Canadian army.

We sure had a humdinger of a tornado up in Worcester, Mass., June 9th, and it jumped over this section into Sutton and Northbridge, Holden and North Worcester caught it, and the damage it done. Flint, Mich., and Worcester now know what a tornado is. Whoever heard of it up in this section before—I never did, and no one else. The weather sure plays some dangerous tricks, hurricanes, tornados, twisters and so forth. What have we all done to deserve this, I wonder. Every time we have a little black sky hereafter, with lightning with it, people won't know really what to do, only to dive into some cellar some where. Whole double streets of houses, cottages and all, all gone. Why 40 and 50 miles away in and around Boston they found shingles, War bonds, newspapers and what-not. The hospitals are all overloaded, and the national guard, with police officers, soldiers, American Legion, and others guarding the stricken area. Shewsbury also received a taste of it, and the post office at Fayville. Frank Henry, our past great sachem of the Improved Order of Redmen, and publisher of "Teepee Talks," said he was on the Boston-Worcester Bus down there at that time, and things were pretty rocky. Beny Tighe also says on his way down from New Hampshire, where the Tornado started, in Petersham,

50 miles away, looked as if a giant hand had come down and scooped up trees, houses and all. Says he never saw any thing like it, nor no one else, I guess. It was even worse than the Hurricane. Over 80 are dead and nearly a 1000 or more injured.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

#8, George French, Kezar Falls, Maine, change in address from 121 W. Passaic Ave., Bloomfield, N. J.

(Advertisements)

EXCHANGES COLUMN

Novels of all kinds for sale or trade. Roy E. Morris, 901 E. Michigan Ave., Orlando, Florida.

Walter E. Brown, 511 9th St, Altoona, Pa., would like to have early numbers of Tip Top or early Merriwell stories in Medal Library or the Merriwell Series.

Wanted: Any quantity of the Liberty Boys of '76, without covers. Must be priced reasonable. Wallace H. Walldrop, RFD #5, Box 289, Greenville, S. C.

Have following Tousey story papers to trade—Boys of New York, runs 530 to 999, Young Men of America, 526 to end, #635; Golden Weekly complete run 1 to 145. Will trade for Tousey "nickel" novels, reprints O.K. Charles Bragin, 1525 West 12th Street, Brooklyn 4, N. Y.

Wanted: Merriwell Series #74 75 78 79 81 87 95 110 120 125 153. John Hildebrand, 12 Roosevelt Court, Brooklyn 32, N. Y.

Want good, sound clean copies of weird, fantastic or horror magazines, also the magazine G-8 and His Battle Aces, published about 1935 or 1940. J. P. Guinon, P. O. Box 214, Little Rock, Ark.

For Sale—240 Merriwells and 60 Ted Strongs, 13 Jack Lightfoots, thick size S&S. All different. Condition good to excellent. Make offer. J. R. Schorr, 11572 So. Cypress, Orange, Calif.

Have for trade Hentys Cornet Walter and Cast Ashore, a few first and some reprints. Wanted Henty rare and odd titles and a few first edi-

tions. Also want Logan, the Mingo and Lona Wingo, the Mohawk, by Ellis. What have you to offer. W. B. Poage, 505 S. Newport Ave., Tampa 6, Fla.

Have Beadle's Dime and Half Dime Libraries for sale. Send your want lists. Also have Buffalo Bill Stories #459 to 477 inclusive, bound with front covers. Price \$25.00. Ralph F. Cummings, Fisherville, Mass.

Small size Pluck and Lucks for sale. Everett L. Cline, 930 U. S. National Bank Bldg., Denver, Colorado.

Wanted Nos. 993 to 1000 Boys of New York and Vols. 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, and

20 to end of Golden Days bound. A. W. Lawson, 13 Charles Square, Hoston, London N 1.

WANTED

Boys of New York #775, 937, 938.
Boys of Liberty Library (Street & Smith) #18-22.

Happy Days #510-511.

Frank Leslie's Boys of America #52 to 58.

I will give \$1.00 per copy for any of the above if in good condition.

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Please state your actual requirements in your first letter when List, full details and price will be sent free. All enquiries answered.

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A HISTORY OF FIREWORKS , by Alan H. Brock, First Edition 1949. 8 plates in full color, and 32 half-tones -----	5.00
(OLD) AMERICAN GLASS , by M. McClinton, First Ed. 1950. Illustrated. Some colored -----	1.25
EARLY AMERICAN FIREARMS , by Robert Abels, First Edition. 1950. Well illus. Some in Color -----	1.25
MY FIFTY YEARS IN BASEBALL , by Edward G. Barrow, 1951. Illus. -----	2.50
MY 66 YEARS IN THE BIG LEAGUES , The Great Story of America's National Game, by Connie Mack -----	1.00
EARLY AMERICAN FIRE ENGINES, AUTOMOBILES, LOCOMOTIVES Color Prints, in Sets of 8 each -----	Each, 2.00
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Ralph F. Cummings

Fisherville, Mass.

WANTED!

Beadle's Dime Novels, Nos. 33 and 631.
 Beadle's Fifteen Cent Novels, any number except 17 and 22.
 Beadle's Boys' Library, No. 319.
 New and Old Friends, No. 2.
 New and Old Friends, new series (11x16½ inches), Nos. 1, 2 and 3.
 Beadle's Fireside Library, No. 16 reprint containing Mrs. Warfield's Quadroon.
 Beadle's Book of Fun, Nos. 1 and 3.
 Beadle's Joke Book, No. 3.
 Beadle's Dime Cook Book, Fortune Teller, and Family Physician.
 Beadle's One Cent Song Book, No. 1.
 Beadle's Half Dime Singers Library, Nos. 3, 20, and 35.
 Beadle's Base Ball Player, 1863, 1864, 1868, 1877.
 Irwin P. Beadle's American Novels (sometimes listed as Irwin's Amer. Novels, or simply American Novels), any number.
 Irwin P. Beadle's Ten Cent Stories, any number.
 Irwin P. Beadle's Six Penny Tales, any number.
 Frank Starr's American Novels, Nos. 1 to 17.
 Frank Starr's Fifteen Cent Illustrated Novels, any number except Nos. 14, 15, and 21.
 Frank Starr's New York Library, any number except 1, 2, 3, 4, 9 and 20.
 Frank Starr's Ten Cent Pocket Novels, any number.
 Girls of Today, later called New York Mirror, Nos. 1 to 26.
 Campfire Library, No. 24.

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